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~~INFORMATIONAL~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FD NO.

COUNTRY Colombia

Colombia

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE DISTR. 5 Jan 1949

SUBJECT

Army Dissatisfaction with Minister of War

NO. OF PAGES 2

**PLACE
ACQUIRED**

25X1A6a

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DATE OF INFO.

25X1X6

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X6

1. There have been numerous complaints recently from officers of the Colombian Armed Forces with regard to General German Ocampo, Minister of War. This dissatisfaction stems from the following:
 - a. Favoritism shown by Ocampo for certain officers;
 - b. Ocampo's failure to hold military educational functions, such as General Staff schools and other instruction required for promotion in the army; and
 - c. Ocampo's inability to take advantage of the state of siege to obtain arms and equipment needed for the expansion of the Armed Forces. The Army believes that Ocampo is the only Minister who followed the President's request for curtailment of dollar purchases by the ministries.
2. A ranking member of the General Staff recently stated that during the month of December 1948 Ocampo will be relieved of his post as Minister of War. He is to be given a diplomatic post, possibly as Colombian Military Representative to the United Nations.
3. Another source stated that he had received information from all the departments of Colombia that there is a noticeable lowering of morale, as well as a distinct breach between the enlisted personnel and the officers of the army. The source believes, however, that the information fails to indicate that this is a unified effort or movement among the troops, but rather that it is a spontaneous reaction to varying degrees of severity in the various departments. He further stated that despite the differences between the enlisted men and the officers, the latter still maintain fairly good control and discipline over the troops.
4. A third source stated that he conducted numerous investigations, with negative results, in various parts of the country during the past three months, in an effort to verify numerous complaints received concerning subversive meetings of both troops and officers. He added, however, that there are indications of dissension and discontent among the officers and troops because of the nature of the work the Army has been assigned subsequent to the 9 April 1948 uprising, namely, assuming police duties, patrols, etc. The source also stated that

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[illegible]

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.

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Class. (700-800) : 675 S

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882-00457R0022

Sanitized - Approved For Release: CIA-RDP82-00457R002200190008

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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the Army is conducting extensive investigations in leftist and Communist groups, who are endeavoring to create mutiny and dissension in the ranks.

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